

Mount Vernon Belvedere Clarion

January 2009

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The next general membership meeting will be held on January 20, 2009, at the Belvedere Hotel, lobby level. Meetings begin promptly at 7:30pm. Members and non-members are welcome to attend.

At this month's meeting, there will be updates regarding the proposed homeless shelter.

Homeless Shelter Update

After nearly a year of working with the city, the MVBA board has resolved to support the city's plans for a homeless facility on our boundaries. Details to follow.

Historic District Signage Project

Great News!! This is such a terrific initiative that a grant of \$ 13,000 has been awarded to the MVBA for its Historic District Signage Project by the Baltimore Area Heritage Area Authority! Colorful, high-quality signs stating "Mount Vernon Historic District" will bring Mount Vernon the high visibility it deserves, but is lacking, as a unique and attractive destination in the city. With enough funding, signs will be installed at every intersection in Mount Vernon.

We have had a great response to this project with almost \$ 9,000 raised so far. But we still need almost \$ 4,000 more in contributions to collect every dollar of these matching funds. Each dollar you, your business or your institution contributes brings another dollar for historic district signs. Each sign purchased will buy two signs to Mount Vernon. It's a 100% matching grant – let's take full advantage of it. All contributions to this important project are tax deductible. Make your check out to Midtown Community Fund (write "signs" in the memo section) and send to MVBA, 1221 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore MD 21202. The signs cost \$ 100 each. Contribute on or before February 5 to be included in the complete donor listing in the February Clarion newsletter.

Hollywood in Mount Vernon

The film "He's Just Not That Into You," featuring Jennifer Aniston, Ben Affleck, Mount Vernon and the Washington Monument, opens on February 6.



SUBSCRIBE!

If you are getting this newsletter in the mail, you are probably missing out on important email newscasts, neighborhood alerts and early electronic delivery of this newsletter itself. Help save a tree and convert to email delivery by sending an email to membership@mbva.org with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line and your full name in the body. Non-members can sign up for email communications at www.mvba.org.

Welcome New Businesses!

If we need any more proof that Mount Vernon is the European heart of Baltimore, look no further than two new businesses in the neighborhood: French bistro Marie Louise at 904 N. Charles Street and the potential scooter shop on Morton Street. A touch of France and bit of Italy, and we are delighted to add them to our retailing and dining scene.

In other news, the former Sylvan Beach location is in the planning stages to become a Baskin Robbins/Dunkin Donuts shop. And the former location of Decorator Hardware in the 200 block of W. Read is operating as a lunch carry out featuring mostly Mediterranean dishes.

Welcome New Members

This month we are pleased to welcome as new members the delightful Mount Vernon Hotel at Franklin and Cathedral Streets. Recently renovated from top to bottom at a cost of \$ 3 million, the hotel also features the Bay Atlantic Restaurant serving traditional American fare for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Students from the International Culinary Institute participate in the operation of the restaurant and the hotel's location makes it a great place for guests wanting to enjoy the Basilica, the library and all of the other cultural offerings of Mount Vernon.

Welcome also to Todd Evans who is in the process of planning a scooter shop at 1004 Morton Street. Note: scooters are going to be the hot form of urban transportation in coming years. This new retailer will be drawing lots of customers to Mount Vernon – and we are delighted that Todd is locating his shop in this charming block of Morton Street.

And we give a special salute and welcome to new business member the Westminster House apartments at 524 N. Charles Street. Westminster House is designed for seniors 62 and older who want the vibrancy of Mount Vernon life at a rea-

sonable cost. Apartments range in cost from \$462 - \$989/month with utilities included except phone/cable. They offer 4 sizes of apartments from a studio to a 2-bedroom. Individuals cannot make more than \$34,000 if single or \$43,000 if married. Westminster House also accepts Section 8 vouchers. On-site are a convenience store, hair salon and underground parking. In fact, Westminster House has 11 underground parking spaces with 24-hour access for rent. The cost is only \$125.00 per month, Contact Anne Perry at 410-837-0180 or aperry@westminsterhouseapts.org. Westminster House is an active and committed member of the community. Their residents volunteer for many cultural and religious organizations in the neighborhood and special events including the Holly Tour. We welcome them to the MVBA and thank them for their contributions to the community.

And, finally, Artisan Title at 807 N. Calvert has joined the MVBA. These folks are true professionals at providing residential and commercial title abstract service on conventional, FHA, VA and refinancing transactions. They have been in business since 1986 and are huge supporters of the community including a very large contribution they made to support the Mount Vernon Children's Park which is just a few doors away from their office. If you are in need of their services, please keep this wonderful neighborhood business in mind.

Tree Update

Thanks to the city's Department of Forestry for getting our tree removal and planting into high gear at the end of December. A crew was assigned exclusively to Mount Vernon in the first week of January to push our tree needs to the top of the deck. Holding the crews back again this season is the lack of tree stump removers. The city has only two stump machines and both have consistent mechanical problems. Please note that some tree wells will not be planted this year. The roots of larger dead trees will be allowed to rot for a year, making root removal easier next Fall when new trees will be planted.

Mount Vernon in the News

Eden's Lounge at 15 W. Eager Street continues to rack up outstanding reviews, this time with a glowing article, this time in Baltimore Magazine. In addition to a cool vibe and stylish crowd, the review raves about Eden Lounge's culinary offerings. It's time to check out this terrific res-

restaurant and lounge and there is no better time than their happy hour Monday – Saturday from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. with 2-for-1 drinks and dinner specials.

Congratulations to MVBA Board Member David Wiesand whose spectacular home was featured in the Baltimore Sun on January 11. Check out David's shop McLain Wiesand at 1013 Cathedral Street and find out why clients from all over the country come to Baltimore to purchase furnishings and decorative pieces from David.

And we are all pleased to welcome new resident BSO's Maestra Marin Alsop who has recently purchased a home in Mount Vernon, according to the Baltimore Sun.

Membership Renewals

Look for invoices to arrive in the mail during January for renewing your membership for 2009. Simply check the information on the form for accuracy and return the complete form with payment in the envelope provided. Alternatively, you can renew your membership online at www.mvba.org.

Hey, Mount Vernon, Fitness is Right Here!

Start 2009 on the right sneaker-wearing foot with personal training and creative classes at True Balance Studio 1031 Cathedral, or a membership that includes a full array of exercise equipment and classes at MV Fitness, 1014 N. Charles Street. These businesses, both MVBA Members, are eager to welcome neighbors who want to shape up, tone up and feel better in the year ahead and both are surprisingly affordable.

Newsletter by e-mail

Currently, about half our membership receive their newsletter by snail-mail. Help us save postage and material costs, as well as volunteer labor hours by subscribing to receive the newsletter by e-mail. If you are currently a member, just send an e-mail to membership@mvba.org with the words "subscribe" in the subject line, along with your name in the body of the e-mail.

Interested in advertising in the Mt. Vernon Clarion? Rates:

1/8 page \$15 (2.5" x 2.5")

1/4 page \$45 (3.5" x 4.5")

1/2 page \$55 (7.25" x 4")

Business card \$30

All we need is an image file in .jpg, .tif, .bmp, or a clean copy that can be scanned.

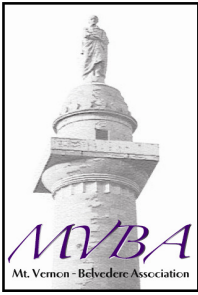
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Mt. Vernon ~ Belvedere Clarion

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To contact members by phone, call MVBA's main number 410-528-1919 and select the desired extension from the menu.

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Historic Mt. Vernon/Belvedere

